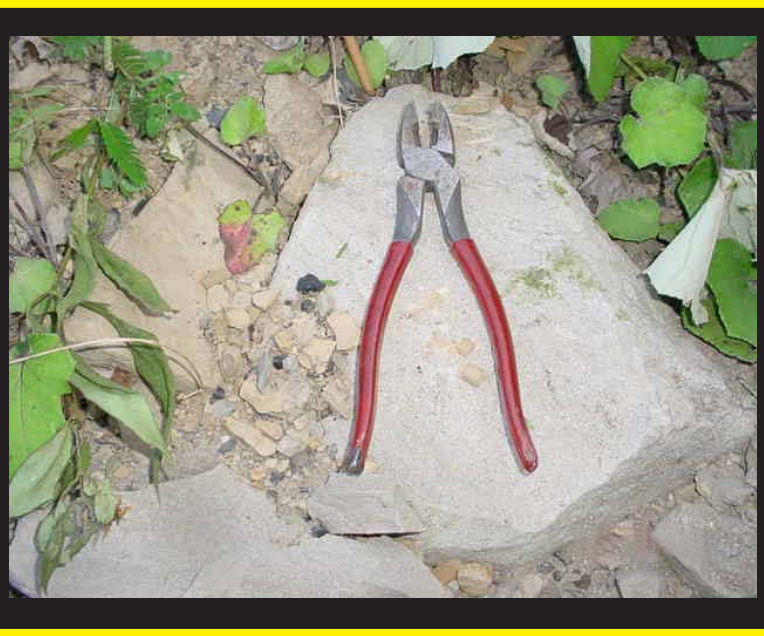
Southern WV Safety Alert

How can you know if a conductor is energized?

An electrical contractor received permanently disabling injuries while working on an abandoned power line that was assumed to be deenergized. Earlier in the day, work was performed on a branch circuit of this line which was checked and found to be deenergized. The branch line was properly grounded before the work was performed. The contractor changed to a different work location, but failed to check for energized conductors and establish grounding before beginning work at the new location. While cutting a conductor on the incoming side of a disconnect, the electrical contractor was severely burned as he contacted the energized 7200 volt conductor. A cellular phone company was using one of the three overhead power conductors to provide power to a cellular phone tower. The one energized conductor was not connected to the branch line that had been checked earlier.



Preventive Practices:

- ✓ **Never perform electrical work until all circuits are deenergized, locked out and grounded.**
- ✓ **When working on high-voltage lines on a pole, ground both incoming and outgoing lines.**
- ✓ **Use voltage detecting instruments to determine if electrical conductors are energized.**
- ✓ **Use proper equipment (gloves, etc.) when performing electrical work.**

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration